

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to require the composition to be applied in a skin-relaxing effective amount, thereby softening the expression lines, support for which exists, *inter alia*, at page 5, lines 1-12 of the present application.

Claim 10 has been amended to require softening expression lines via relaxing contractile fibroblasts associated with the expression lines, support for which exists, *inter alia*, in the examples of the present application.

Claims 19 and 20 have been amended by replacing “analogue” with “compound” and by specifying the adenosine compounds required by the claims, support for which exists, *inter alia*, at pages 7-8 of the present application.

New claims 24-28 have been added. These claims are directed to specific adenosine compounds identified in claim 19 and at pages 7-8 of the present application.

New claim 29 has been added to require a relaxing effect on dermal contractile cells, support for which exists, *inter alia*, at page 5, lines 19-22 of the present application.

New claim 30 has been added to require softening of specific types of expression lines, support for which exists, *inter alia*, at page 8, lines 19-21 of the present application.

New claim 31 corresponds to original claim 4, except that it depends from claim 30.

Claims 1, 4, 10, 13, 19-21 and 24-31 are currently pending.

The Office Action rejected claims 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because they contain the word “analogue.” Claims 19 and 20 have been amended to replace “analogue” with “compound” and by specifying the adenosine compounds required by the claims. In view of the above amendments, Applicant respectfully

requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 4, 10, 13 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over DE 19545107 ("Schoenrock"). In view of the following comments, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

The pending claims relate to methods of softening expression lines using specified amounts (0.1-10%, more specifically 0.1-1.0%) of adenosine. Of particular note, the invention methods require direct application of the specified amount of adenosine to the expression lines with the intent and effect of softening the expression lines. The applied art, Schoenrock, neither teaches nor suggests these unique treatment methods.

Schoenrock relates to treating exogenous signs of skin aging caused by external factors such as UV light and chemicals. (See, page 1, third paragraph of Schoenrock).

As Applicant has previously demonstrated in discussing Exhibits A-C of record in this case, expression lines differ from other wrinkles such as those caused by external factors such as UV light (sun damage), and expression lines are "difficult to treat." This is supported by the discussion in the present application at pages 2-3 which states that expression lines are produced by mechanisms which differ from the mechanisms associated with aging lines (that is, expression lines are caused by the stress exerted on skin by the muscles which produce facial expressions, whereas aging lines are not), and that typical aging treatments do not have an effect on expression lines. Thus, merely because a reference might disclose methods of treating other types of less difficult-to-treat wrinkles such as those caused by UV light, it does not mean that such a reference (directed to a different type of wrinkle) teaches or suggests

anything about how to treat expression lines. In other words, for example, a disclosure related to treating wrinkles caused by sun damage or UV light cannot teach or suggest how to treat expression lines, which are recognized as being different, more difficult-to-treat types of wrinkles.

Again, by way of analogy, baldness can be caused by different mechanisms such as, for example, alopecia or testosterone-related baldness. However, whereas testosterone-related baldness might be treatable using compounds which inhibit testosterone production or inhibit conversion of testosterone to active forms, alopecia cannot be treated using such compounds. Thus, although the effect (baldness) is the same, treatment methods are not interchangeable for the different types of baldness.

Similarly, in this case, treatment methods for treating one type of wrinkle are not interchangeable with methods for treating expression lines. Accordingly, references directed to treating wrinkles other than expression lines cannot teach or suggest methods of how to treat expression lines.

Schoenrock does not teach or suggest softening expression lines by applying adenosine thereto. Rather, Schoenrock teaches treating wrinkles or damaged skin caused by UV light or chemicals. Again, as explained in the present specification (pages 2-4), the conditions treated by Schoenrock are different from expression lines: their causes are different and their treatments are different. For example, whereas wrinkles are caused by lack of collagen and can be addressed through collagen protection and/or synthesis, expression lines are caused by different mechanisms and cannot be addressed by increasing or protecting collagen. Thus, although Schoenrock teaches addressing collagen-related

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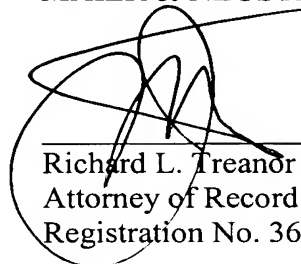
conditions such as wrinkles, it neither teaches nor suggests reducing or softening conditions unrelated to collagen levels. Because expression lines are not collagen-related, Schoenrock could not possibly teach or suggest anything concerning treatment of this condition.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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